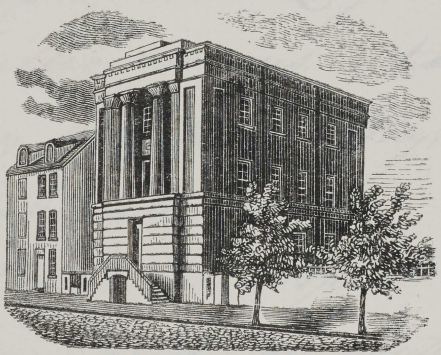
AN ESSAY ON

Solanum nigrum

Clinical

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF THE



HOMŒOPATHIC MEDICAL COLLEGE

OF PENNSYLVANIA,

On the thirty first day of January, Eighteen Hundred and Fifty-six.

By Joseph Charles Baker

Of New Hampshire

Some clinical observations
on the use of
Solanum Nigrum

Case 1.

Miss Alice Lyons, Aged 27,
of a Bilio-nervous ~~temperament~~
sedentary habits, healthy, regular
and temperate.

Some time in April last, took
a sudden cold, by wetting the
feet, two days before the regular
menstrual period; producing sup-
pression and the usual train of
symptoms, in such constitutions

Thinking that she would
probably fully recover at the usu-
al return of the proper season
She made no special effort to

reproduce them.

Being disappointed in this she resorted to foot baths warm teas ptisans &c but without "becoming regular"

In the month following (June) she was induced by a matron, to whom she disclosed her condition, to take Secale cornutum,

Thinking, as many in the ranks of Allopathy still seem to think, that Quantity would compensate for want of adaptation, she obtained an ounce, prepared by decoction and took nearly the whole before the desired effect was produced.

With that effect came as

concomitants, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, prostration of strength, and overshadowing all, violent, spasmodic pains in the hypogastrium, producing, at last, general convulsions.

An Allopathic physician was called, who, failing to relieve, had at different times, three of his brethren as counsel.

She continued in nearly the same condition, except some amelioration until near the first of October, when she was induced by her friends to change her treatment.

At this time I first saw her in the capacity of physician

Found her considerably emaciated, and debilitated; with little appetite, eructation and frequent vomiting; Skin pale with a yellowish, shriveled appearance; pulse feeble and from ninety to one hundred per minute.

But the most marked symptom in her case was violent griping pains in the region of the uterus with forcing downwards or cutting in the iliac regions; aggravated from four or five O'clock in the afternoon until past midnight to such a degree as to entirely prevent sleep. From that time until ten A. M she had, at first dis-

disturbed sleep and afterward that which was more refreshing.

Gave Bell. and Coff. thirtieth potency twelve hours apart for forty eight hours, but without any perceptible improvement, except that the sleep was more quiet and refreshing.

The primary affection, being apparently produced by the Secale, and having continued nearly unchanged through more than three months of Allopathic drugging, I was induced to give Solanum Nigrum. (the symptoms corresponding,) a dose every morning.

Two days afterward the case was so much improved that

all medicine was withheld and a dose of Sac. Lac. given night and morning for a week—

At the end of that time the patient was able to take two meals with a relish, slept well and was entirely free from pain.

During the next week she passed through the catamenial period with no more suffering than when in her usual health, and, in less than four weeks from the time of taking the first dose of Solanum, was able to return to her usual employment and has since remained in good health.

The marked success attending the administration of Solanum nigrum in the foregoing case induced me to give it in one where large doses of the Ergot had been given during labour.

A cachectic condition remaining, with tendency to dropsy, frequent urging to urinate, and but little urine passed, induced her to change physicians.

A marked improvement followed the use of the remedy; but not having seen her for the last four weeks, I am unable to state the final result.

A graduate of this school

in the clap of 1860, or 61, informs me that he gave a single dose, under circumstances similar to those last named, with the most happy results.

From the foregoing facts we may infer that Solanum nigrum not only antidotes Secale in its acute effects, but is also an important remedy in some of the chronic diseases arising from its excessive use.